THE OBSERVER

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
INDIANA
Involved For Life

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Habitat for Humanity Builds Way to Louisiana

Renee Pugh
Reporter

Over Spring Break 2003, a group of students traveled to Covington, Louisiana, with Habitat for Humanity. This group of students performed multiple tasks, including prefabricating wall studs for a "blitz build" to begin in June, working with AmriCorps workers on a gazebo in a local park, and starting construction of two backyard storage sheds at local near-complete Habitat houses. They also took part in various volunteer jobs throughout the community, such as sorting clothes at a local St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store.

However, these trips involve more than simply building houses and volunteering one's time. Often, students return from these trips as changed people. Club advisor Fred Berger is proud of the work his students put into these projects, and applauds their efforts – as well as their hearts and spirits. "These trips have a way of nurturing and cultivating SJC students as compassionate, caring God-centered people," said Berger. "I have never known a group of Habitat volunteers who experience a week of working and mingling with faraway affiliates not to return changed as both individuals and as a group."

Students who participated this year agreed. Many professed to a renewed sense of spirit and spirituality. "I feel that this trip allowed me to grow spiritually. Ever since I've returned, I've felt a renewed love of humanity and a definite stirring within my heart to assist those [who] are in need," said sophomore Megan Mallory. "I definitely grew in many different ways because of this trip," agreed Meg Perryman, a sophomore who also went on last year's Habitat trip to South Carolina. "Since being back at SJC after the trip...I have tried to be an overall better person. I gained many friendships because of this trip...someone I persuaded to join us on the trip has become one of my best friends. I never would have thought that spending only a single week with people could have such an impact on a friendship," she stated. "This past spring break's journey to Louisiana was my first trip with Habitat," said sophomore Ambre Marr. "I made lasting friendships on this particular trip, along with valuable memories that I will never forget."

In addition to self-discovery and friendship, participants also gained a new perspective on the lives of those around them. "This trip made me aware of the poverty that surrounds each and every one of us," said Marr. Mallory, however, has "been aware of situations of poverty" throughout her life due to her upbringing. "My parents have always been very conscious of instilling a respect for all people within me and my brother," she stated. Mallory even feels that this particular trip will directly affect her choice of employment. "I have no doubts that my life calling will be directed towards assisting...those [who] have traveled the path wrought with thorns," she says.

Habitat is a program that benefits those in need, as well as life here at SJC. "[It is] imperative that SJC participate in these activities," stated Mallory. "As a Catholic institution, it is our duty to assist those [who] live in destitute conditions. Humanity is necessary, as is the support and community that comes in the *workers* of these activities," she emphasized. "If Habitat doesn't reflect positively on [SJC], I don't know what would," said Perryman. "We go on Habitat trips with money from our own pockets [in order] to help people who are less fortunate than we are. It's something kind we can do for others without getting anything physical in return," she stated.

As any good college student knows, all work and no play makes life pretty dull, and this team of workers are no different. In between constructing sheds, volunteering their time, and working on various Habitat projects, these students still found time to relax, enjoy themselves, and even fabricate a few inside jokes. "We hung out with new friends and old, played Four Square, Blackjack, and watched movies. We even spent some quality time in New Orleans," said Perryman. Phrases such as "OPA!" "Quiet Coyote," and "Red Poncho" will bring a smile to the face of any student who went on this year's Habitat trip. Existing friendships were strengthened and new ones were forged. People grew inwardly, as well as externally. Berger could not be more pleased with the Habitat crew. "It is a joy to be faculty advisor to the Saint Joseph's College Habitat for Humanity chapter," he says. "They are very much living the Gospel values and putting their faith and love into action and deeds."

NEWS
SJC CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH
STUDENT UNION BOARD SPEAKS OUT

FEATURES
POET JARROD CARTER LECTURES CORE 2 STUDENTS
CLAYTON MILLER BLUES BAND ROCKS SJC

SPORTS
PUMA SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL
HEALTH UPDATE: OBESITY

OPINION
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ET CETERA
PUMA POETRY

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Observer Editor:

On Thursday, March 20, at about 6pm, I placed two American Flags outside my apartment. Within our apartment, we have several siblings and friends serving overseas. I felt it was important to show our support for our troops. These are young kids on foreign battlefields fighting for us. Five hours later I glanced outside and noticed that one of the flags was missing, and soon after the other was missing also. I think it is simply appalling that a simple flag on SJC's campus only has a life expectancy of less than one night. Has it really come to the point where we can't do anything nice with our apartments because some drunk will come along and tear it down? I have heard many students this year complaining that there is nothing to do on this campus, and that there is a lack of parties. Well of course not! If I can't trust individuals to respect a flag on the porch, why should I trust them inside an apartment filled with my possessions? Many people are weary of having people over and I don't blame them, the students on this campus don't have respect for individuals or their property. Especially during a time of war, I would have hoped that college students would have more respect than what I have seen tonight. What is the matter with the students on this campus? I guess I should have known better than to place an item out on our apartment lawn; maybe I should think about moving our grill indoors too. **-- Colleen Flynn**

The Student Union Board would like to thank those who competed in the "Cool Room Contest." The winners are as follows:

THE ULTIMATE COOL ROOM:

Melissa Janowitsch and Britney Cox

"BEARY" COOLEST:
Mikey Barry and Brian Kukulski
Renee Pugh

THEME/COLOR ORIENTED ROOM:
Jackie Ullery
Susan Huss

RANDOMNESS:
Stephen Kraemer
Megan Sutton and Vanessa Brown

MOST TOUCHES OF HOME:
Kris Dougherty
Lisa Scherb

ARTSY/CREATIVE:
Abby Thiel

SPORTS DEVOTION:
Luke Hanson

MUSIC DEVOTION:
Calvin Metts

PUMA PRIDE:
Theresa Yoder, Alexis Virtue, and Dani and Darci Ramirez
Andy Cool and Talyor Treesch

MOST WALL SPACE REMAINING:
Chris Repp

LEAST WALL SPACE REMAINING:
Brandon Deardorff and Tony Sasak
Sarah Williams and Christie VanEyk

ORIGINAL USE OF FURNITURE:
Jen Zak
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Editor's Note:
In the last issue of The Observer a Letter to the Editor was written by Mike Tebbe suggesting trash recepticals along the sidewalks around campus. An Editor's Note was printed directing all further comments or ideas to the Social Welfare committee. The committee is not comprised of the R.A. staff, as previously printed, but of the governors of each residence hall, instead; I apologize for any confusion.

Editor's Note:
I would like to apologize for the Letter to the Editor written by Ashley Wear in the last issue of The Observer. The Letter was outdated and no longer true, and I apologize for any misunderstandings that may have followed.

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Rants and Raves by John Whelan

... will return next issue with a new topic!

To make a submission to either the Opinion or News section of The Observer, please email Becky Scherer at rsh4164@saintjoe.edu.

** All submissions to the Opinion page must be signed in order to be printed.*

SJC Celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph

Scout Durwood
Reporter

On March 19, students at Saint Joseph's College gathered together in the Core Building for a moment of prayer and meditation in observance of the Feast of St. Joseph. This day celebrates St. Joseph, the father of Jesus Christ and wife of the Virgin Mary. This tradition began in the middle ages in Italy where a group of Sicilians banded together in prayer to St. Joseph asking him to relieve them of the drought that plagued their land. The Sicilians, generally a devoutly religious group, vowed that if St. Joseph would aid them in this way they would declare a feast in his name. Soon, the drought ended, and keeping their word, the Sicilians declared March 19 would forever be known as the feast of St. Joseph, celebrating his life as husband to the Blessed Virgin Mary. A second feast of St. Joseph occurs annually on May 1, Labor Day, as a celebration for Joseph's contributions as a worker. Pope Pius IX officially pronounced March 19 as Joseph's "heavenly birthday" in 1870, calling Joseph the "Patron of the Universal Church."

One of the earliest traditions of the Feast is the building of a decorated altar, in honor of St. Joseph's mastery as a carpenter. The first of these altars, built in Sicily in the middle ages, had three different levels, representing the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost of the Holy Trinity. These altars are usually decorated with linen and flowers as a celebration of the upcoming spring season. Observers of the holiday bake *cuccadati*, loaves of bread in various shapes, to symbolize various aspects of Joseph's and Jesus' life.

Today Catholics around the world celebrate March 19, which also marks the Italian observance of Fathers' Day. Participants use this day to take time and remember the sacrifices made by Joseph in the rearing of his adopted son, Jesus Christ. Some modern stories of the feast include meals of no fewer than thirteen meatless dishes, each one presented by a different saint. Participants recite special prayers in tribute to St. Joseph, and usually food leftover from the feast is given to the poor.

What little we know about the life of St. Joseph comes from the gospels of Matthew and Luke, though most accounts of his life end with the birth of Christ. Throughout history, Christians have invented tales about Joseph to fill in the gaps, and to give themselves a more complete understanding of the father of their savior. Scholars believe his ancestry to relate him to King David, though his own life was largely impoverished. We know he began his life in Bethlehem of Judea, but later moved to Nazareth in Galilee to pursue occupational opportunities. The gospels depict Joseph as a humble and modest man, eager to please his God. Christians praise St. Joseph for his absolute obedience and willingness to serve God.

Saint Joseph's College observed the feast with traditional breads and pastries following a brief prayer led by Father Dan Torsen. Students were encouraged to give thanks to Joseph during this time of Lent or simply to take a moment to give thanks for all that we have today.

Right: Father Torsen read from the Scriptures as the crowd paid homage to St. Joseph.

Left: Celebrants of St. Joseph's feast take part in the sharing of the *cuccadati*.

SUB Myths Dispelled

Bridget Newman
Sports Editor

The Student Union Board (SUB) is, according to its website at www.saintjoe.edu/~subuser/HomePage.html, "a student organization which plans and implements numerous cultural, educational, recreational, musical, and social events for Saint Joseph's College students. SUB is directed by students and for students, and any student can join to help determine which events will be brought to campus." Indeed, SUB is the main programming board for the school. This year SUB has sponsored thirty-six events of varying sorts. The types of acts vary from comedians and coffeehouse singers to game shows and Mr. and Ms. Puma.

Because SUB is a major board with a large budget in relation to other on-campus organizations, there are a lot of misconceptions about what the board does, how the board spends its money, the Fall Fest Myth, and how students can get involved.

Firstly, the Student Union Board is not a "club" in the typical sense of the word at SJC. It was not conceived and implemented by students who thought such a board would be a good idea. The SJC administration created SUB. In addition, SUB has a great deal of responsibility that most organizations on campus do not consider or have to deal with. SUB is asked to appeal to the entire student population. The board has to take into consideration that any act they bring should appeal to the masses. The acts that are chosen have to be approved by many of the SJC higher-up's, not just the acting advisor. SUB has to adhere to requests for more weekend programming and for certain types of programming. SUB also works with the Admissions Office to plan for prospective student overnights. In addition, because SUB events are calendered before the semester starts, students anticipate events and expect them at the time/date provided. Most clubs do not promote more than one event at a time.

When budgets are handed out, many students look at the five-digit number for SUB and see that all the money requested was received; some were agitated that other clubs receive less than half of the requested funds yet SUB received over $30,000 for the second semester. What some students don't realize is that SUB has to contract most of their programmed acts, oftentimes a full semester before they are to come to SJC. Agents can request the money for an act at the time of the contract signing. Therefore, funds are often needed a semester or two before the act comes to campus. The money for this type of business transaction has to be budgeted in.

The cost of some of the events SUB provides would surprise many students. To provide a general idea, getting the Dave Matthews Band to perform at SJC would cost more than SUB's budget for an entire year. A group like Lifehouse or Blessed Union of Souls is well over $10,000: a third of the semester budget. Comedians, singers, hypnotists, and poster sales can each cost over one thousand dollars. In addition, even lesser known groups ask SUB to provide for hotel, food, travel, and lighting costs.

Another service provided by SUB is the Puma Movies and Big Screen Movies. Together, the two take up about 1/3 of the SUB budget. While this is quite costly, surveys have shown that students want more movies. SUB used to run six a semester. Now, though, only three are run a semester. Another part of the SUB budget that is not considered is co-sponsorship. Clubs with large budgets, small budgets, or no budgets at all come to SUB for funds, which are usually provided.

The Fall Fest Myth is often placed on SUB's shoulders and budget. However, SUB had very little to do with the event. Fall Fest was a major concert that took place in 2000; it did not make as much money as was expected. Because SUB usually does that sort of programming, many assumed that Fall Fest, too, was a SUB program. It was, however, proposed by a member of the Student Association and approved by the Senate and the administration. Fall Fest was executed and funded by the Senate. SUB's role was in supplying some additional manpower.

SUB's members travel to the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) conference to meet students from other colleges and share ideas. In addition, the NACA showcases show up-and-coming acts that colleges can afford. The current SUB members are Director Jackie Whan, Vice Executive Director and acting Director of Finance Bridget Newman, Executive Assistant Angie Quartuccio, Director of Special Events Rachel Lancaster, Director of Arts and Bands Fallon Lane, Director of Promotions Casey Wagner, Director of Travel Gretchen Govert, Director of Films Kellie Sosenheimer, Director of Marketing Rachel Jarrard, Directors of Traditions Sarah Sikkema and Amanda Barnhart. Their advisor is Michele Gunkelman, who is temporarily serving in place of Dottie Collura.

SUB is in need of a Director of Finance to take the place of Wes Graper and a Director of Films to take the place of Kellie Sosenheimer. SUB also wants to increase the use of committees, which all students are welcome to join. SUB encourages students to communicate with the board regarding any ideas that they have for programming or any suggestions for improvement of the board's effectiveness. SUB can be contacted through any of its directors or at the SUB office, extension 6055.

SJC Students Get A Case of the Blues

Natalie Lapacek
staff writer

On Saturday, March 22nd SJC had the privilege of having a blues band come to campus. They were called the Clayton Miller Blues Band and produced a loud, modern sound. To anyone in the audience who was not a big fan of blues, seeing and hearing this band probably changed their minds at least a little bit.

The Clayton Miller Blues Band is family-oriented. Larry is the head of the Miller family and plays bass guitar, Clayton, the eldest son, plays guitar and does vocals, Cole, the middle son, plays the drums and does the lead vocals, and J.D, the youngest at nine years old, plays the harmonica and does vocals. Clayton commented that when they get on stage, the audience tends to think at first, "Oh, great, a *family* band. This is gonna' be corny..." He explains how they keep it from being "corny."

"We're just having a good time with the family; you know, being real with the music. Things are more spontaneous."

The band has been together for three and a half years now and has proved to be quite successful.

J.D. Miller shows that age has nothing to do with talent, as he proves he can play the harmonica with the best of them. He appeared on NBC's "Most Talented Kids" on April 4.

J.D., a nine year-old harmonica prodigy, will be on NBC's"Search for the Most Talented Kid in America" on April 4th. The band has also opened for Kenny Wayne Shepard and has played on various campuses such as Purdue and the University of Wisconsin. They have also performed at festivals such as the Riverfront Jazz and Blues Fest and the Rockford Rib Fest. The band performs across the country constantly, so they spend much of their time traveling in their van.

The Clayton Miller Blues Band gave a great performance for both adults and SJC students alike. Practically everyone in the audience was either bobbing their heads or tapping their fingers as the band played soulful, crushing tunes such as "She's a Burglar," "Gotta' have Love," and a cover of "Hoochie-Coochie Man."

The band gave a strong sound with bluesy lyrics and loud instrumental background that made the crowd cheer. Everyone was impressed with how very talented the band was, especially Clayton Miller skillfully strumming the guitar (you know what I'm talking about, girls), Cole playing the drums and singing at the same time, not something many talented musicians do, J.D. playing his harmonica and bringing energy, enthusiasm, and comedy to the stage, and Larry contributing his many years of experience with Blues.

One student, Kara Marxer, was especially enthusiastic about the band,

"The Clayton Miller band was absolutely phenomenal! I fell in love with the lead guitar player!"

The next Clayton Miller Blues Band show playing will be April 1st at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Wondering when the next show in Indiana will be? You can check out their concert dates, plus photos and mp3's, at the band's website: www.claytonmillerbluesband.com. You can also send messages for the site's message board and buy their two CD's, "Live at Duncan Hall," and "Gotta' Have Love."

Clayton, speaking for the whole band, said that they all had a great time playing for SJC. He felt that the audience enjoyed themselves as well and he was pleased with the turnout. When asked if the band was trying to send any sort of message with their music, Clayton shrugged a little, smiled, then gave a simple, but quite satisfactory answer,"We're just showing our love for music."

Music Reviews and News

Before reading this article, make sure you hide your plastic

Alex Lisack
staff writer

Credit cards are a great invention. They enable young college students to spend all of the money they don't have on records no one has even heard of. Well that's what I'm here for and now I'm going to tell you how great they are.

The Postal Service- Give Up

This album is definitely an interesting collection of drum machines and endless keyboards. The Postal Service was formed by Benjamin Gibbard (Death Cab for Cutie) and Jimmy Tamborello (Dritel) after they collaborated on a track for the new Dritel album.

The methods of creating their distinct sound are pretty unique. Tamborello would create all the music and then mail the tracks to Gibbard who then laid down vocals. The finished product is a new-wave sounding record that still possesses the legendary Death Cab for Cutie laid back feel. This record also features members of Rilo Kiley that contribute their voices for back-up vocals. Released on Sub Pop Records. www.subpop.com

The Pattern- Real Feelness

Released on Lookout! Records in September of 2002 The Pattern's new release Real Feelness has been impressing rock and roll fans everywhere.

With elements of punk and garage rock The Pattern is a high energy band that is rumored to have one of the best live shows around. But, these guys are no amateurs, this band features members of other established groups such as The Cuts, Nuisance, and The Pee Chees. Vocalist Chris Appelgren describes The Pattern as "punk boogie with poetry". Whatever way you put it, The Pattern is still a good rock and roll band with a retro sound.

In other news:

- I recently acquired the new Reggie and the Full Effect album (Under the Tray). All I can say is, don't waste your money. But hey that's just my opinion.
- Very Important: New Alkaline Trio album comes out on May 13th. I will be at the record release show in Chicago. I'll keep you updated.
- The Dismemberment Plan is organizing a final tour of the lower 48 and Canada.
- Do you like it noisy? I recently attended a show featuring The Locust. Pure insanity. That's all I have to say about that.
- Also, attended legendary Kung Fu Rick's last show. Do not worry hardcore music fans, there are many side projects to come.

Theatre Review: Blue Man Group

Becky Scherer
News/Opinion Editor

Three bald guys in blue paint and black suits. A mediocre stage with only a table present. An entire theatre dedicated to the performances of only one group, packed to the brim with poncho-wearing spectators. Such is Blue Man Group.

I saw Blue Man Group for the first time over spring break, and I was blown away. I knew it would be cool—I had heard some of their invented instruments and the amazing sounds they produced before attending the show—but I had no idea it would be so captivating. First of all, the music was like nothing I had ever heard before. The Group played such "instruments" as the Drumbone (made of PVC pipe—sound is achieved when the pipe is slid back and forth), the Tubulum and Backpack Tubulum, and the PVC Instrument (made of hundreds of feet of PVC tubing—sound is determined by the length of the tube). "It is by far the coolest instrument ever made partly because of its sound and partly because it changes color," reads the description from the Blue Man Group website (www.blueman.com). Secondly, speaking of color, nothing in the show is the same hue for more than five minutes—not even the Group's costumes. Everything is black light responsive and neon, and constantly changes with every chord progression.

My favorite parts of the show, however, were not the musical selections (as amazing as they were). The show literally was just that—a "show." Comedy, vaudeville, and satire were all a huge part of the act. The Group worked hysterically well together, and the fact that not a single sound was muttered from their mouths the entire night made it even funnier, in a sort of morbid way. Communicating only by body language, these three guys could tell an entire story with the blink of an eye or the lift of a brow. Vaudeville was the prominent feature of several skits, and satirical reactions to modern art could be found underlying every act. It was interesting to watch the Group almost ridicule the modern art culture, when, ironically, the very show they were performing was its own form of modern art. Paintings, sculptures, and "body art" made the show just as creative as it was funny.

Fun with everyday objects such as scrolling marquees, bubble gum, and paint were what made the Blue Man Group so enjoyable. Food was brought actively into the show with the uses of Cap'n Crunch and Twinkies. Audience participation was greatly encouraged, and several audience members got to actually go up on stage and perform with the Group.

The Blue Man Group was truly a spectacular and interactive experience for all present, and not a single person was left out of the fun. Every audience member contributed his or her own style or detail to the show—literally—and because of that personal touch, no two shows will ever be the same. Whether you go for the unique music or for the comedic act, I can't recommend this show enough. In addition, I will add one piece of advice along with my recommendation: when you're told to wear your poncho, wear it. Really.

Jared Carter, Poet, Gives Lecture and Reading

Melissa Genova
Editor-in-Chief

Indiana poet Jared Carter brought his unique brand of poetry to Rensselaer's Carnegie Center on Monday, March 24. The award-winning writer presented poetry from his books including "After the Rain," "Work, for the Night is coming," and "Les Barricades Mysterieuses," a collection of villanelles. The following day, he also gave a Core lecture on Walt Whitman.

Carter thrived in the intimate setting with a few of the faces in the audience being quite familiar, including his friend, Professor John Groppe. It was Groppe's connection that the Saint Joseph's College English Department was able to bring Carter to the community and college. There was one face missing, however, and that was of Carter's friend and fan who recently passed away, George Johnson. Sentiments and poetry were dedicated to this Rensselaer native.

From the beginning, the small but attentive audience realized that they had a unique experience on hand. Besides reading from his books, Carter also read a 30-minute long poem he had written called "The Mussel Shell with Three Blanks Punched Through it," where he recounted a story of a child being introduced to the world of business, nature, button-making, and ultimately a harsh reality.

Although Carter is regarded as an Indiana poet, he does not consider his poetry ethnocentric to the Hoosier state. "I write mostly about the Midwest," Carter said, but added that much of his inspiration comes from his travels from Canada to the Ohio River, to Pittburgh to Kansas City.

The poet also does not like to restrict himself to a certain genre. "If I was a really good pianist, I would do both jazz and classical," said Carter, "It depends on the material, whether I am more interested in telling a story, or more interested in language, rhyme, internal rhyme – all wonderful things to work with."

He became familiar with the published word while working for various local newspapers in his past. Carter called it "the great American tradition of writers." He also worked with college students at Purdue University Lafayette in the early and mid-1980s. "I was an artist/poet in residence. That's how I met [Groppe] and got aquainted to Rensselaer," he said.

Carter first introduction to Rensselaer was in 1984, where he participated in a poetry conference. "I have come to the college many times....I think the world of SJC and much of it is because of my friends John [Groppe] and George Johnson," said Carter. He commented throughout the reading how he absolutely fell in love with this town. In fact, a poem of Carter's updates James Whitcomb Riley's poem about Little Cousin Jasper.

Last week, poet Jared Carter visited both Rensselaer's Carnegie Center and gave a lecture on Walt Whitman to SJC's Freshman.

Besides sharing poetry with the community, Carter was a guest lecturer for the Freshman class. It was also his first time presenting a lecture. "I think they just decided it would be interesting to see what a working poet has to say about Whitman," Carter said.

Carter realized the importance of pursuing and familiarizing oneself with artistic interests at a young age. "You think at times you are going to keep in touch with these things all your life, but it is hard," he said.

Carter's awards for poetry include the Walt Whitman Award in 1980 for "Work, for the Night is Coming," and as of last year, the Rainmaker Award, which he found a particularly interesting honor. Always the poet, Carter said "I have not been able to make any rain yet, but I am hoping to try and conjure up a few drops."

Kairos Journal:
A Freshman recounts her first Experience

Scout Durwood
staff writer

I would like to preface this article by stating that I am not a Christian. When I was eight I was asked not to return to Sunday school for demanding answers to too many questions. Needless to say I was not exactly enthusiastic about the prospect of spending four days in "God's Time" at a Kairos retreat. I remember walking to the Puma bus with a duffel bag and a pillow, as two eager Kairos alumni greeted me with enthusiasm, taking my bag and stripping me of my cell phone. It was going to be a long four days, and I knew it.

I must admit, I spent the first day and a half skeptical of my decision. What on earth was I doing here? I was not a Christian. I had already been through plenty of therapy. What could Kairos possibly have to offer me? I remember leaders and retreatents telling me to keep an open mind. I promised them I would, and as the weekend wore on, I began to finally understand the beauty of Kairos.

No one encouraged me to "find Jesus" or to become a Christian, but rather wished me the best in finding whatever answers I was looking for, divine or not. We began to open our hearts to each other, and lost ourselves in the process, only to find something much, much more. By the end of the weekend we were truly, and in all senses of the word, a family. Slowly, but surely I opened my heart, too and revealed my secrets to these people, once strangers, now my closest friends.

What struck me most of all was the lack of avid evangelism. My apprehensions as a non-Christian were completely unwarranted. One of the leaders shared with me his own skepticism of the Christian faith, but he explained to me that that was not the point of Kairos. He went on that the idea behind Kairos, behind God's time, was to move closer to oneself: to find what is important inside of ourselves, and if we chose to do so through Jesus Christ, so be it. If not, that was okay, too. I replied with tear stained eyes that I felt much like Dorothey who, after all her adventures in Oz, realizes that all the adventure she could ever want was no farther away than her own backyard.

After nineteen years of struggling, I was finally moving towards something divine, but it didn't come from the Bible or from the words of a priest; my knowledge of the divine came from my peers, from their stories, laughter, and tears. I was finally able to see my God. Towards the end of the weekend the rectors asked us what we had gained from our Kairos experience. I thought for a moment, but my answer was clear. Kairos brought me a step closer to my faith, whatever it may be. It brought me a step closer to my family at home, and it brought me worlds closer to my family at Saint Joseph's College. I will always value my weekend at Kairos. It showed me an aspect of Christianity on which I had all but given up. More than anything, Kairos was a reminder to stop every so often, and reflect upon all the bad, all the good, but most importantly all the love in my life. I am thankful for my experience, and hope that everyone may find their way to this retreat, or if not, to take time out of their lives and, even if only for a moment, be at peace.

Quickies

* Thank you to everyone who gave blood for the American Red Cross Blood Drive on March 24.

* Andy Cool will be playing in the Halleck Center Ballroom on April 17 with his band, Grool (featuring his cousin Casey Grund). You can either buy CDs from Cool himself, or at the show for $4.

* Melissa Genova will be the feature on WPUM's "Klemme and Money Experience" this upcoming Tuesday, April 8 at 10pm. She'll be playing some originals, and welcoming calls. Tune in to 90.5 FM.

* The SJC Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band has their final concert of the year last Sunday, March 30. You should have been there.

* You should already know by now that it is Little 500 weekend - but *just in case*, I'm reminding you. Be safe and have a great weekend Pumas!

* The Miss Puma Competition is tonight in the Halleck Center Ballroom at 9 PM. Cheer on your favorite chica!

* Keep a lookout for Peaceapalooza coming the week of April 22nd!

* *The Observer* is currently putting their staff together for the 2003 - 2004 year. If you are interested, contact Melissa Genova, Rebecca Scherer, or Bridget Newman. We are looking for photographers, writers, columnists, page editors for the upcoming year.

Attention Fans!

Observer Fan of the Year

The Observer will be having a "Fan of the Year" contest in April. It will be awarded to the SJC student who demonstrates true pride for the Puma sports teams.

Nominations will be done by the Observer editors. Voting will be done outside of the cafeteria April 7, 8, and 9.

If you haven't been to a game lately, now is your chance to catch up on the action.

Health Update: Obesity

Jackie Keefe
Reporter

Bridget Newman
Sports Editor

Obesity is defined as being 20% above what one's body weight should be in regards to his/her height. 13% of children from ages 1 to 6 years, 14% of adolescents from ages 12 to 19 years, and 61% of adults in the United States were overweight or obese in 1999. This prevalence has nearly tripled for adolescents in the past 2 decades.

The increases in overweight and obesity cut across all ages, racial and ethnic groups, and both genders. It is the fastest growing epidemic in this nation. 300,000 deaths each year in the United States are associated with obesity.

Problems in weight control can lead to serious medical problems such as heart disease, certain types of cancer, type 2 diabetes, strokes, arthritis, breathing problems, and psychological disorders, such as depression. In addition, people who suffer from being overweight sometimes face social discrimination.

Obesity is often associated with overeating. In some cases excessive calorie consumption and inadequate physical activity are the two major causes. However, genetics and metabolism also play a role. In addition, environment can make an impact on a person's habits. The easy access to computers, video games, and quick meals make it easy for a person to stay inside, seated and snacking.

There is an easy do-it-yourself test to determine if you are overweight or obese. The BMI (Body-Mass Index) test is accurate but you should see a doctor if you believe you are at risk.

BMI = [Weight in pounds ÷ Height in inches ÷ Height in inches] x 703. For example a person weighing 210 pounds who is 6 feet tall would take 210 pounds divided by 72 inches divided by 72 inches multiplied by 703 = 28.5. A healthy BMI for adults is between 18.5 and 24 If you are underweight your BMI is less than 18.5. If you are medically overweight your BMI is 25.0-29.9. If you are medically obese your BMI is 30.0 or more. Consult a physician if you are concerned about your health.

Information found at the website for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Attention Coaches!

Observer Athlete of the Issue

The Observer would like to acknowledge the accomplishments of the Saint Joseph's athletes. We are accepting nominations for the "O.A.I" Observer Athlete of the Issue.

If you would like to nominate a student, please contact Bridget Newman: bnh3998@saintjoe. edu. The nominee should exemplify both skill and leadership. He/She will be featured in the most recent edition of the newspaper following their nomination.

SJC Fan Club

GO

LET'S

PUMAS

SJC Softball is Red Hot!

They could be described as the tightest-knit team on campus. They eat together, hang out together, and some of them room together. They are high-spirited and energetic; they are the Puma softball team.

Their season began as usual, with a spring break tournament in Florida. They returned to SJC with a 1-8-1 record. First basemen #16 Merissa "Fire" Kapelinski stated,"Our record does not reflect how well we played." The girls competed against six ranked teams, and lost to all of them by only one run. Their experience in Florida showed them what they needed to work on. Fire believes that Lewis University is one of their biggest rivals this season. "They are a team that needs to be put in their place," she said confidently.

Senior and designated hitter #11 Niki Pecho has been described by coach Frank Wilkins as the "Top team leader and hitter." She was all-conference last year. She said that the team keeps gaining confidence as they progress. "We are not playing to win or lose and we are not scared of making mistakes."

Sophomore Jen Willig gives coach Frank Wilkins credit for "changing the program." This is Frank's third year coaching softball for St. Joseph's College. He feels that the Lady Pumas are a team that is sometimes plagued with bad luck, but he adds that they have turned their luck around in the four consecutive wins during double-headers on April 25th and 27th. "We are a very good team, but we still have a lot of work to do."

"The freshman this year are wonderful, they have really stepped up and shown their ability. They are natural players," said Kapelinski. She named freshman pitcher #7 Ashley "Tator" Heatwole as a key player this season. Heatwole commented that the freshman this year have tremendous talent and a lot of guidance from their upperclassmen. "They welcomed us with open arms." Heatwole's personal goals this season are to throw more strike-outs and less walks. She thinks that as a team they need to work on "stringing their hits together."

Freshman third baseman #8 Jill Kapitan said, "We (the freshman) are ready to play our role and help the team win." Her personal goal is to bat over .350.

The Puma softball team shares a common goal this year. They want to win their conference title. Kapelinski wants to bat over .350 and sophomore catcher #25 Michelle Ellis is hoping for a batting average of .400. Ellis would also like to be first team all conference catcher.

Sophomore outfielder #9 Jen TenPas has her goals set high for this season as well. She would like to hit consistently, keep a positive attitude and earn a starting position. TenPas stated, "Overall our team is the most talented that SJC has ever seen. As soon as we learn how to make individual talent into team talent, we should be unstoppable."

Sophomore second basemen #57 Erin Kardash also had a little constructive criticism for her team. "We have routine plays down, the only thing lacking is mental aggression when out of the ordinary situations arise." Kardash is working on consistent fielding this season.

After a double header on Saturday, March 29th, the softball girls record stood at 8-13-1 and 2-4 in conference. The girls shut out Indiana Tech 3-0 in the first game and 1-0 in the second. Kapelinski wants all SJC students and staff members to know that, "The games are always better with the support of the Puma Superfans. We always give them a good game to watch." As a superfan, I would have to agree wholeheartedly! The girls have started a winning streak and they are red hot!

Puma Baseball Battles for Victory

Over Spring Break the baseball team headed to Florida where they picked up five wins, one over the top-ranked team in the country, and five losses. Junior Garrett Guest (#43) was able to elaborate on the trip and how the rest of the season is shaping up.

Guest said that the experience in Florida was full of good performances by the Pumas. Despite the losses they felt that there was at least a chance in most games. Guest commented, "We were there one day, and the next day we weren't," explaining that some games just got away from them.

As of March 27th, the Pumas record for the season stood at 11-11 and 3-4 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Pumas picked up two wins over Quincy in their first games at Gil Hodges Field. According to Guest, everyone wants to get out and get the season rolling. "We're doing alright . It's the first real experience with cool weather. There's always an adjustment," he added.

Looking ahead, there will be a large number of seniors leaving after this season. The seniors are #2 Jeff Gumerson, #3 Scott Mertes, #5 Jim Cartwright, #13 Paul Bihun, #15 Jim O'Dette, #16 Steve Mulligan, #17 Tony Schmid, #23 Kurt Welsh, #27 Quinton Allen, #32 Mike Eagan, and #57 Larry Poleski. For now their leadership is key. Yet, this will leave a heavy load for next year's seniors to bear, few of whom, have had game experience. Guest said that next year will depend heavily on the younger guys, and that there will be very talented sophmores moving up to fill the void. Guest concluded, "Hopefully, the transition will be smooth."

The 41st annual Little 500 go-kart race returns to SJC on Saturday, April 5th.

If you are interested in writing for the sports pages contact Bridget Newman at bnh3998@saintjoe.edu

Upcoming Puma Games

Men's and Women's Track and Field

Chicagoland Championships
Away
April 4th, 3:00pm
April 5th, 10:00am

Little State Championships
Away (Marion, IN)
April 12th, 10:00am

Men's Tennis

vs. Northern Kentucky
Away
April 5, 9:00am

vs. Thomas More
Away
April 5, 3:00pm

Softball

vs. St. Francis
Away
April 4, 5:00pm

vs. WI-Parkside
Away
April 5, 12:00pm

Baseball

vs.Oakland City DH
Away
April 5, 12:00

vs.Oakland City DH
Away
April 6, 1:00

Top 5 Movie Quotes of the Week:

Compiled by Tim Hayes

5. *Throw Momma from the Train*
"Criminals don't age, Lester! It's a common fact. Criminals and Dick Clark!" -Larry Donner (Billy Crystal)

4. *Mystery Men*
"We're not your classic superheroes. We're not the favorites. We're the other guys." -The Shoveler (William H. Macy)

3. *Blues Brothers*
"I ran out of gas. I had a flat tire. I didn't have enough money for cab fare. My tux didn't come back from the cleaners. An old friend came in from out of town. Someone stole my car. There was an earthquake! A terrible flood! Locusts! It wasn't my fault, I swear to God!" -Jake Blues (John Belushi)

2. *Star Wars: A New Hope*
"The garbage shoot was a wonderful idea. What an incredible smell you've discovered." -Han Solo (Harrison Ford)

1. *The Odd Couple*
"You leave little notes on my pillow. Told you a hundred-fifty-eight times I cannot stand little notes on my pillow. 'We are all out of cornflakes. F. U.' Took me three hours to figure out 'F. U.' was Felix Ungar." -Oscar Madison (Walter Matthau)

Courtesy of www.uselessmoviequotes.com

- -What's That Line Again?- -

Did you ever listen to a song and hear one thing, only to find out later that what the lyrics actually are were a totally different thing? Well, you're not alone. Here are the misheard lyrics from some of your favorite artists' songs.

Song: *Caribbean Blue*
Artist: Enya
What They Heard: "Do I believe the guy above, is carrotbean blue?"
Correct Lyrics: "Do I believe the sky above, is Carribean blue?"

Song: *I Would Die For You*
Artist: Prince
What They Heard: "Eiffel tower's red."
Correct Lyrics: "I would die for you."

Song: *Peaceful Easy Feeling*
Artist: Eagles
What They Heard: "Cuz, I've got a pistol and I'm going to shoot you if you don't put me down."
Correct Lyrics: "Cuz, I've got a peaceful, easy feeling and I won't let you down."

And our student response:
Song: *Drift Away*
Artist: Dobie Gray
What Lisa Fruecht Heard: "Give me the Beach Boys and free my soul."
Correct Lyrics: "Give me the beat boys and free my soul."

****If you have a song lyric that you've interpreted incorrectly, and you would like to have it in the Observer, email it to Susan Huss.****

Source: www.amiright.com

SJC Poet's Corner

Sorry

I'm sorry for the way I talk.
I'm sorry for the speed I walk.
I'm sorry for the way I stare.
I'm sorry for the constant glare.
I'm sorry for the way I touch.
I'm sorry for that may be too much.
I'm sorry for the way I see.
I'm sorry for the soul that's me.
I'm sorry for the way I feel.
I'm sorry for being so real.
I'm sorry for crossing the line.
I'm sorry for wasting your time.
I'm sorry for being a fool.
I'm sorry for falling for you.

~Stephen Kraemer

****If you or anyone you know is interested in submitting their poetry, cartoons, art or other creative expressions, e-mail Susan Huss at shg3609@saintjoe.edu.****

What a Wonderful World

Based on the lyrics by George Weiss and Bob Thiele

I see skies of black, clouds of ash too.
I see them loom above me and you.
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

I see buildings destroyed, lives torn apart.
The bright blessed day, a memory in my heart.
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

The terrors of war are everywhere we look
On this morning's news and in yesterday's history books.
I see men firing bombs, saying, "It's something we must do."
They're really saying, "I just don't have a clue."
I hear babies crying; they'll never grow.
They'll never get to learn because we didn't know.

And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.
Yes I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

~Bridget Newman

One Thought

One touch, one dream, one kiss, one wish
One too many times have I longed for the touch of my lovers skin
One too many times have I dreamed the same hopeless dream with the same hopeless end
One too many times have I wanted these meaningless first kisses to be the last
One too many times have I wished I could have a true love like this that far exceeds the past
One failure, one rejection, one disappointment
One too many times have I fallen short when challenged to be the man I know I can be
One too many times have I rejected myself and given into the person I used to be
One too many times have I cowered when presented with the chance to forge my own destiny
One God, one life, one dream, one team
One too many times have I questioned God's plan
One too many times have I thought of taking my own life with my own hands
One too many times have I dreamed of being someone other than myself
One too many times have I rejected the chance to stand in the gap for someone else
One word, one world, one heart, one girl
One too many times have I hated myself for abusing "love," that one important word
One too many times have I assisted in destroying this planet we call Earth and the gift we know as our home and our one world
One too many times have I betrayed the guidance and advice I was given by my heart
One too many times have I fallen short when attempting to be someone else instead of that man who won the heart of that one girl
Twenty-seven ones, merely wishes, confessions, and realizations
But still there is only one me
Only one identity
And one fate for my life and the rest of humanity

~Calvin Metts

Red, Red, and Red

I.
Hear it haunt the holler
And hills as it sweeps
Through, howling. Misinformation
Winding with winds up roads
And down dreams. Flaps of
Old Glory find ear drums,
Resounding fierce fiddles. Fiddles
And bows for fatigues, fatigues
For freedom? Fiddles for freedom,
Fatigues for folly.

II
See the city, swamped
Sundered. Tantrums, talk.
Truculent temperament to
Terminate. Guns for grenades.
Grenades for greatness? Media
Minded, mind the media. Mouthed
Misty mindfulls of manure.
Mission or mission? Re-minded,
Manifest Destiny. Might makes
Mighty messes.

III
Again, Old Glory atop
Domed D.C. Her old
Glory fading, fading. Feel
It. Future flaming fields
Fueled. Oily flags file
Victorious, stitched with fiery
Black thread. To gain? Bombs
For brains? Planes for planes?
Burial of brethren, furrowing
Of brows.

IV
Search continues, lighted
By darkness. A wake of destruction,
Death. Can they see America
Through the bushes? Only slightly.
Light, concentrated. Tiny
Beams behind the foliage. Home
Of brave, or bestiary?
Belligerence for benevolence?
The pestilence of power,
Pride. Peace for pain?
Protest.

~Lance Crow